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AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

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Ottawa, August 9, 1937, 4 p.m. - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues to-day a bulletin compiled from the returns of crop correspondents giving (1) the condition of field crops on July 31, expressed numerically in percentages of the long-time average; (2) a preliminary estimate of the yield of fall wheat, fall rye and alfalfa (first cutting); and (3) estimates of the acreage sown to the five principal grain crops in the Prairie Provinces, as shown by the annual June survey.

SUMMARY

The condition of the spring wheat crop in Canada on July 31, 1937, was only 35 per cent of the long-time average yield per acre compared with 51 per cent on June 30, 1937, and 45 per cent on July 31, 1936. The current condition figure for spring wheat is the lowest in 30 years of continuous records. With the exception of spring rye and flaxseed, other coarse grains including oats at 60 per cent and barley at 63 per cent showed slightly better prospects on July 31, 1937, than on the same date a year ago. This was due to the comparatively better conditions in Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta. Compared with June 30, 1937, the condition figures for practically all grains on July 31 were lower.

The fall wheat crop in Ontario is estimated at 17,248,000 bushels, which is an increase of nearly 5 million bushels over the small crop of 1936. Fall rye in the whole of Canada is placed at 4,276,000 bushels, an increase of more than a million bushels over last year's production. The first cutting of alfalfa is slightly higher this year at 1,520,000 bushels.

According to the results of the June survey, the sown area of spring wheat in the Prairie Provinces in 1937 is 24,599,000 acres, which is an increase of only 77,000 acres over the 1936 area. In Alberta, reductions in the dry southern districts at seeding time were more than offset by increases in the central and northern districts. In Saskatchewan, reduced wheat seedings in the south lowered the total area for the province below that of 1936. The wheat acreage increased moderately in Manitoba. The total oats acreage in the Prairie Provinces also shows a slight increase over that of last year. Both wheat and oats gained at the expense of the barley area which shows a reduction of over 157,000 acres below the barley area in 1936.

In the Maritime provinces good prospects were well maintained during the month of July. Spring grains held their own. Pastures showed a slight decline as a result of dry weather but the potato crop in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick gained a little. With favourable weather conditions throughout the month, the condition of grain crops in Quebec is well up to average. The potato crop promises some increase over last year, while hay and clover yielded smaller crops. Pastures have stood up well.

The situation in Ontario is in sharp contrast to that of last year when the province suffered from severe drought. All crops showed marked improvement and there has been practically no reduction from the ample prospects evident a month ago. Apart from the seasonal decline in pastures which is usual during the hot weather, peas and buckwheat are the only crops showing a perceptible decline from the condition figures shown at the end of June. In Northern Ontario, crops were retarded by dry weather which was broken by good rains around the middle of the month.

Conditions in Manitoba are decidedly better than in the last season. While most crops show moderately lowered condition figures as compared with June 30, grain crop prospects are still not far below the long-time average. Ample supplies of feed and forage seem assured. In Saskatchewan there has been no significant relief from the record-breaking drought which has prevailed over most of the province. As a consequence all the crops have dropped still further to establish all-time low levels. Spring wheat prospects tumbled from 34 per cent of the long-time average indicated at the end of June to the amazingly low figure of 14 per cent, while other grains followed the same trend. Feed supplies are very short. Alberta's outlook is moderately better than last year, although the condition of the principal grain crops has been lowered during July. Minor crops and pastures, however, have shown a slight improvement during the month.

While all crops in British Columbia are promising, condition figures are a little below the high points registered a year ago. Hay and pastures are the only exceptions to the general trend and in these cases the figures are practically equal to those of July 31, 1936.

Condition of Field Crops, July 31, 1937.

For all Canada, the condition of field crops expressed in percentages of the long-time average yields per acre is as follows, with the condition for June 30, 1937, and July 31, 1936, within brackets: Spring wheat 35 (51, 45); oats 60 (73, 57); barley 63 (79, 56); spring rye 40 (48, 49); peas 87 (97, 70); beans 91 (91, 84); buckwheat 94 (96, 80); mixed grains 96 (97, 97); flaxseed 28 (44, 45); corn for husking 89 (87, 82); potatoes 92 (94, 81); turnips, etc. 97 (98, 81); hay and clover 92 (90, 94); fodder corn 93 (92, 79); sugar beets 93 (92, 75); pasture 91 (96, 82).

For the Prairie Provinces, the condition of the principal grain crops on the same dates is as follows: Three Provinces - Wheat 35 (51, 45); oats 40 (60, 43); barley 56 (76, 50); spring rye 37 (47, 45); flaxseed 25 (42, 44). Manitoba - Wheat 90 (102, 61); oats 84 (98, 52); barley 84 (98, 55); spring rye 84 (96, 61); flaxseed 87 (94, 60). Saskatchewan - Wheat 14 (34, 45); oats 17 (45, 41); barley 22 (56, 49); spring rye 21 (37, 45); flaxseed 9 (30, 43). Alberta - Wheat 51 (63, 40); oats 54 (65, 41); barley 57 (68, 45); spring rye 45 (46, 40); flaxseed 48 (49, 34).

Yield of Fall Wheat, Fall Rye and Alfalfa

The total yield of fall wheat in Canada in 1937 is now estimated at 17,248,000 bushels from 646,000 acres, a yield per acre of 26.7 bushels, as compared with 12,478,000 bushels from 509,300 acres, a yield per acre of 24.5 bushels, in 1936.

Fall rye in Canada is estimated to have yielded 4,276,000 bushels from 682,600 acres, as compared with 3,042,000 bushels from 457,300 acres in 1936, yields per acre of 6.3 and 6.7 bushels respectively.

The first cutting of alfalfa yielded 1,520,000 tons from 811,400 acres, a yield per acre of 1.87 tons, as compared with 1,438,000 tons from 853,600 acres, a yield per acre of 1.68 tons, in 1936.

ACREAGES OF PRINCIPAL GRAIN CROPS IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES

The estimates of the areas sown to the principal grain crops as shown by the Annual June Survey are now available for the Prairie Provinces. As compared with 1936, the area under wheat is practically unchanged, showing an increase of 77,000 acres or 0.3 per cent. In 1937, the wheat area is placed at 24,599,000 acres compared with 24,522,000 acres in 1936. The area under oats this year of 8,579,000 acres is 74,000 acres or 0.9 per cent higher than last year. The barley area is estimated at 3,562,300 acres, a decrease of 157,000 acres or 4.2 per cent as compared with last year. Rye at 808,200 acres is up 41 per cent, while flaxseed at 233,300 acres is down 51 per cent compared with 1936.

Areas Sown to Principal Grain Crops in the Prairie Provinces in 1937, As Compared with 1936.

	Year	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye	Flaxseed
		acres	acres	acres	acres	acres
Manitoba	- 1936	2,566,000	1,441,000	1,384,000	93,000	88,000
	- 1937	2,872,000	1,410,000	1,393,000	135,200	38,300
Saskatchewan	- 1936	14,596,000	4,610,000	1,299,000	326,600	354,300
	- 1937	13,893,000	4,380,000	1,174,000	518,000	175,000
Alberta	- 1936	7,360,000	2,454,000	1,036,000	151,900	17,000
	- 1937	7,834,000	2,789,000	995,300	155,000	20,000
TOTAL - Prairie Province	- 1936	24,522,000	8,505,000	3,719,000	571,500	459,300
	- 1937	24,599,000	8,579,000	3,562,300	808,200	233,300

CHARTS SHOWING THE CONDITION OF SPRING WHEAT IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES AT JULY 31, AND JUNE 30, 1937, AND JULY 31, 1936.

On the last three pages of this report, charts are reproduced to picture the condition of spring wheat the above-mentioned dates. The patterns for the same ranges of condition are identical, facilitating direct comparisons between the charts.

Following upon the unprecedented crop deterioration during June in Saskatchewan and Alberta, further declines occurred during July, while Manitoba suffered a comparatively modest decline in condition. Compared with prospects of a year ago, both Manitoba and Alberta as a whole were showing better condition at July 31, this year, but Saskatchewan was heavily the reverse. Taking the Prairie Provinces as a whole, the average condition figure was 35 on July 31 this year, compared with 51 a month earlier, and 45 on July 31, 1936. For the ninth successive year, the wheat prospects in the Prairie Provinces have been poorer at the end of July than at the end of June.

The loss of condition this July is due to the continued drought accompanied by excessive heat during the early days of the month. Rains rescued the Manitoba crop toward the end of the second week in July, but not without considerable loss in the western districts. A week later Alberta was favoured with rains which thwarted a more serious crop disaster, while scattered points in Saskatchewan also received generous precipitation which was much too late, however, to effect any improvement in the wheat prospects in the south, and too late to avert serious further loss in the northern and north-eastern districts.

Manitoba -

Drought made its heaviest inroad in the districts bordering the Saskatchewan boundary. District 1 declined from 106 to 92 between June 30 and July 31, while District 7 dropped from 101 to 77; District 10 from 93 to 55; and District 13 fell from 88 to 63. In the Red River Valley and in the districts north, around and south of Brandon conditions depreciated more modestly. While rust threatened the susceptible varieties in these areas, and will still do damage to the late-sown fields, it is no longer a major menace because of the early maturity this season.

Saskatchewan -

The provincial condition figure of 14 on July 31 is eloquent of the crop disaster in that province. Districts 3a, 3b and 4 in the south show a complete crop failure, while Districts 2 and 6 in central Saskatchewan will harvest wheat only in scattered areas. Heat and drought in July combined to reduce conditions in the remaining northern and eastern districts to approximately half their level at the end of June.

Crop District 8 which shows the most hopeful prospects in the province, dropped from 81 per cent of the long-time average on June 30 to 46 per cent at the end of July.

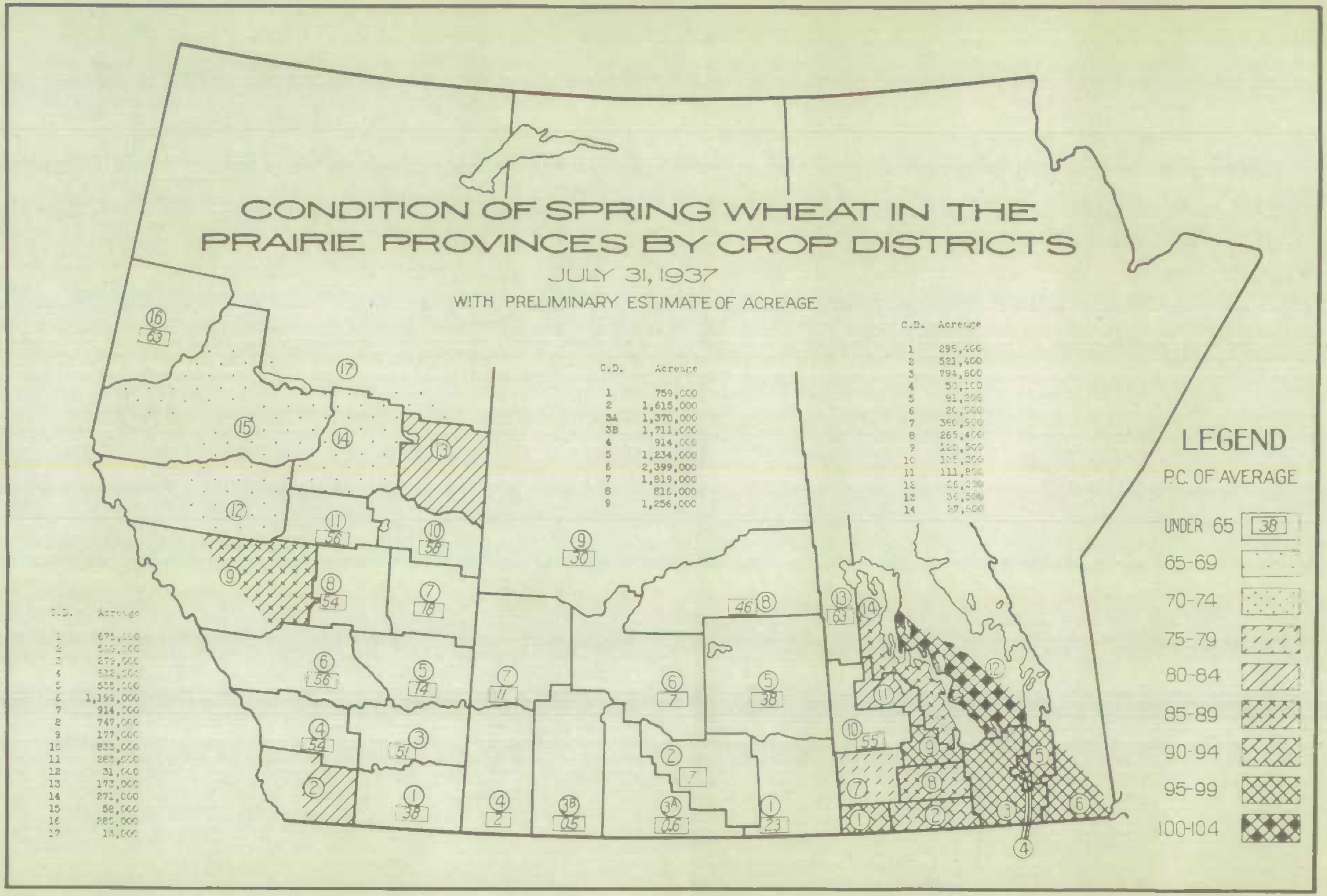
Alberta -

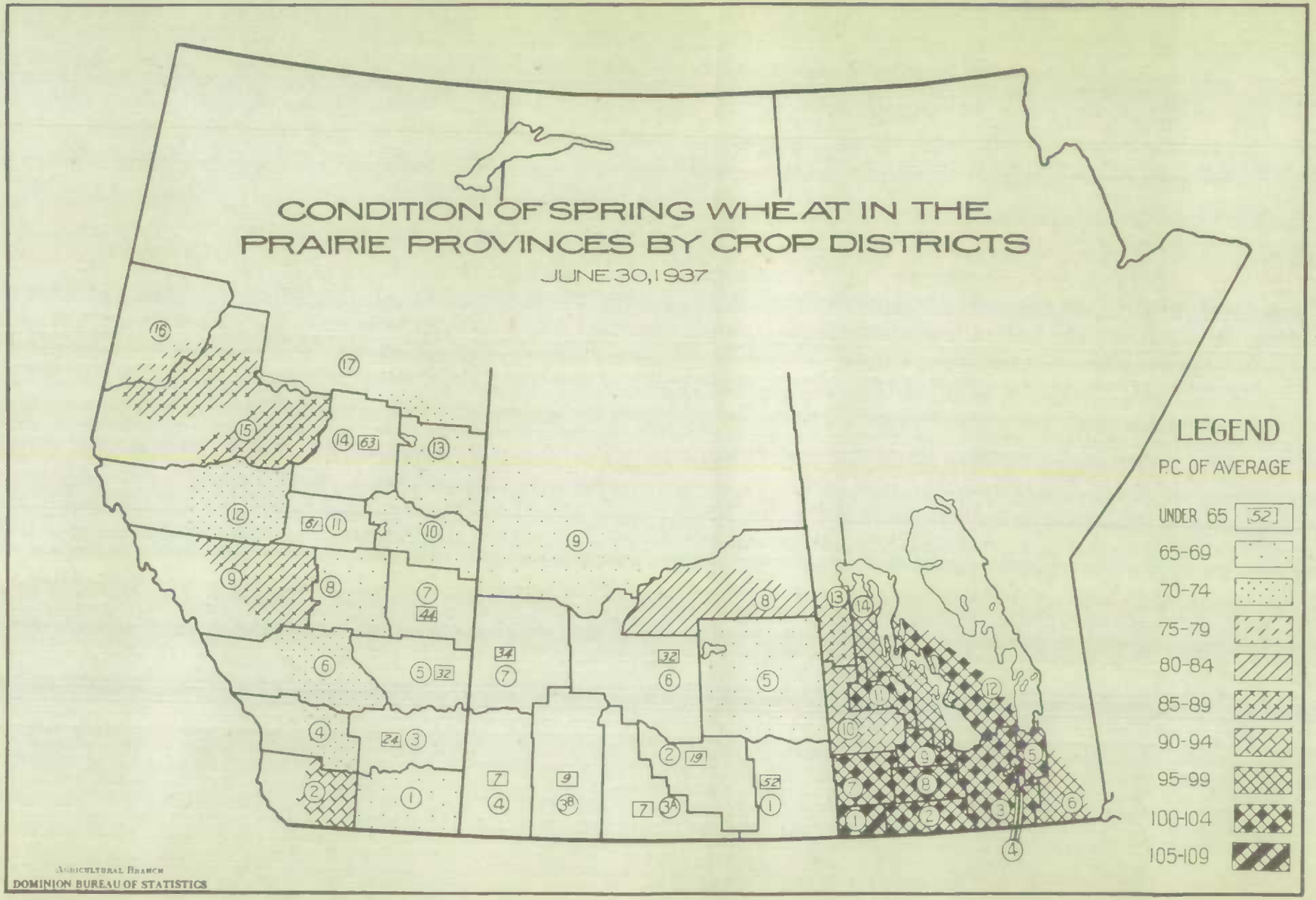
While prospects are quite varied throughout the province, the average condition figure of 51 at July 31 represents a further decline of 12 points since June 30. With the exception of July 31, 1936, when the provincial figure dropped to 40, the outlook at July 31 this year was the poorest on record. July rains brought about an improvement in Districts 3, 13, and 14, while Districts 2, 9, 11, 12 and 17 suffered very little loss during the month. East-central Alberta, already badly affected by drought, came through the month the most poorly, with only seed and feed in prospect in Districts 5 and 7. Districts 4 and 6, south of and around Calgary declined during the month and will harvest only half a crop.

1. - Condition of Field Crops at July 31, 1937, as compared with May 31, and June 30, 1937, and with July 31, 1936. (100 = long-time average yield per acre).

Field Crops	July 31 1936	May 31 1937	June 30 1937	July 31 1937
	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
Canada -				
Spring wheat	45	85	51	35
Oats	57	90	73	60
Barley	56	93	79	63
Spring rye	49	83	48	40
Peas	70	93	97	87
Beans	84	-	91	91
Buckwheat	80	-	96	94
Mixed grains	77	92	97	96
Flaxseed	45	-	44	28
Corn for husking	82	-	87	89
Potatoes	81	-	94	92
Turnips, etc.	81	-	98	97
Hay and clover	94	90	90	92
Fodder corn	79	-	92	93
Sugar beets	75	-	92	93
Pasture	82	82	96	91
P. E. Island -				
Spring wheat	73	99	95	101
Oats	101	94	99	98
Barley	98	99	100	99
Buckwheat	95	-	96	100
Mixed grains	104	94	103	100
Potatoes	96	-	93	95
Turnips, etc.	100	-	104	98
Hay and clover	113	104	96	109
Fodder corn	89	-	97	91
Pasture	109	105	107	99
Nova Scotia -				
Spring wheat	96	95	93	93
Oats	102	94	96	95
Barley	100	91	96	93
Buckwheat	96	-	94	96
Mixed grains	103	95	96	93
Potatoes	99	-	96	96
Turnips, etc.	98	-	96	95
Hay and clover	110	100	106	106
Fodder corn	96	-	92	90
Pasture	106	99	106	98
New Brunswick -				
Spring wheat	98	96	94	97
Oats	101	87	92	96
Barley	97	89	92	94
Beans	99	-	95	96
Buckwheat	96	-	98	95
Mixed grains	98	100	93	97
Potatoes	99	-	97	98
Turnips, etc.	99	-	99	96
Hay and clover	108	94	93	95
Fodder corn	96	-	95	93
Pasture	106	95	96	94
Quebec -				
Spring wheat	93	91	94	97
Oats	94	92	96	95
Barley	98	89	96	94
Spring rye	99	95	94	97
Peas	94	95	99	95
Beans	97	-	96	94
Buckwheat	95	-	95	98
Mixed grains	96	94	97	97
Flaxseed	94	-	96	97
Potatoes	99	-	99	101
Turnips, etc.	100	-	97	98
Hay and clover	101	91	89	87
Fodder corn	91	-	93	92
Pasture	99	92	96	95

Field Crops	July 31 1936	May 31 1937	June 30 1937	July 31 1937
	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
Ontario -				
Spring wheat	80	92	94	94
Oats	76	91	97	96
Barley	76	91	96	96
Peas	61	92	97	85
Beans	83	-	91	91
Buckwheat	63	-	96	91
Mixed grains	75	92	99	98
Flaxseed	73	-	96	97
Corn for husking	82	-	87	89
Potatoes	70	-	98	96
Turnips, etc.	68	-	99	98
Hay and clover	86	87	93	104
Fodder corn	81	-	92	94
Sugar beets	84	-	98	97
Pasture	61	92	103	96
Manitoba -				
Spring wheat	61	101	102	90
Oats	52	97	98	84
Barley	55	96	98	84
Spring rye	61	96	96	84
Peas	68	105	98	91
Buckwheat	70	-	95	98
Mixed grains	65	96	100	89
Flaxseed	60	-	94	87
Potatoes	55	-	99	91
Turnips, etc.	59	-	97	92
Hay and clover	83	92	96	87
Fodder corn	71	-	96	93
Pasture	62	97	102	87
Saskatchewan -				
Spring wheat	45	78	34	14
Oats	41	84	45	17
Barley	49	89	56	22
Spring rye	45	79	37	21
Peas	31	85	43	18
Beans	32	-	50	22
Mixed grains	36	81	29	14
Flaxseed	43	-	30	9
Potatoes	59	-	68	48
Turnips, etc.	58	-	75	42
Hay and clover	65	78	54	30
Fodder corn	43	-	50	25
Pasture	52	68	45	35
Alberta -				
Spring wheat	40	93	63	51
Oats	41	92	65	54
Barley	45	94	68	57
Spring rye	40	83	46	45
Peas	45	90	76	82
Beans	32	-	73	86
Mixed grains	43	88	67	63
Flaxseed	34	-	49	48
Potatoes	59	-	80	80
Turnips, etc.	59	-	77	80
Hay and clover	64	84	61	56
Fodder corn	38	-	61	63
Sugar beets	58	-	79	87
Pasture	52	80	61	63
British Columbia -				
Spring wheat	95	96	95	93
Oats	98	94	93	92
Barley	96	95	92	91
Spring rye	97	98	96	97
Peas	103	95	98	94
Beans	102	-	99	95
Mixed grains	99	94	95	95
Flaxseed	99	-	100	95
Potatoes	97	-	96	95
Turnips, etc.	96	-	95	91
Hay and clover	99	95	99	99
Fodder corn	97	-	90	92
Pasture	94	98	100	95


CONDITION OF SPRING WHEAT IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES BY CROP DISTRICTS
JULY 31, 1937
WITH PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF ACREAGE
C.D. Acreage
1 759,000
2 1,615,000
3A 1,370,000
3B 1,711,000
4 914,000
5 1,234,000
6 2,399,000
7 1,819,000
8 816,000
9 1,256,000
C.D. Acreage
1 295,400
2 521,400
3 794,600
8 265,400
LEGEND
P.C. OF AVERAGE
UNDER 65
65-69
70-74
75-79
80-84
85-89
90-94
95-99
100-104


CONDITION OF SPRING WHEAT IN THE
PRAIRIE PROVINCES BY CROP DISTRICTS
JUNE 30, 1937
LEGEND
P.C. OF AVERAGE
UNDER 65
65-69
70-74
75-79
80-84
85-89
90-94
95-99
100-104
105-109
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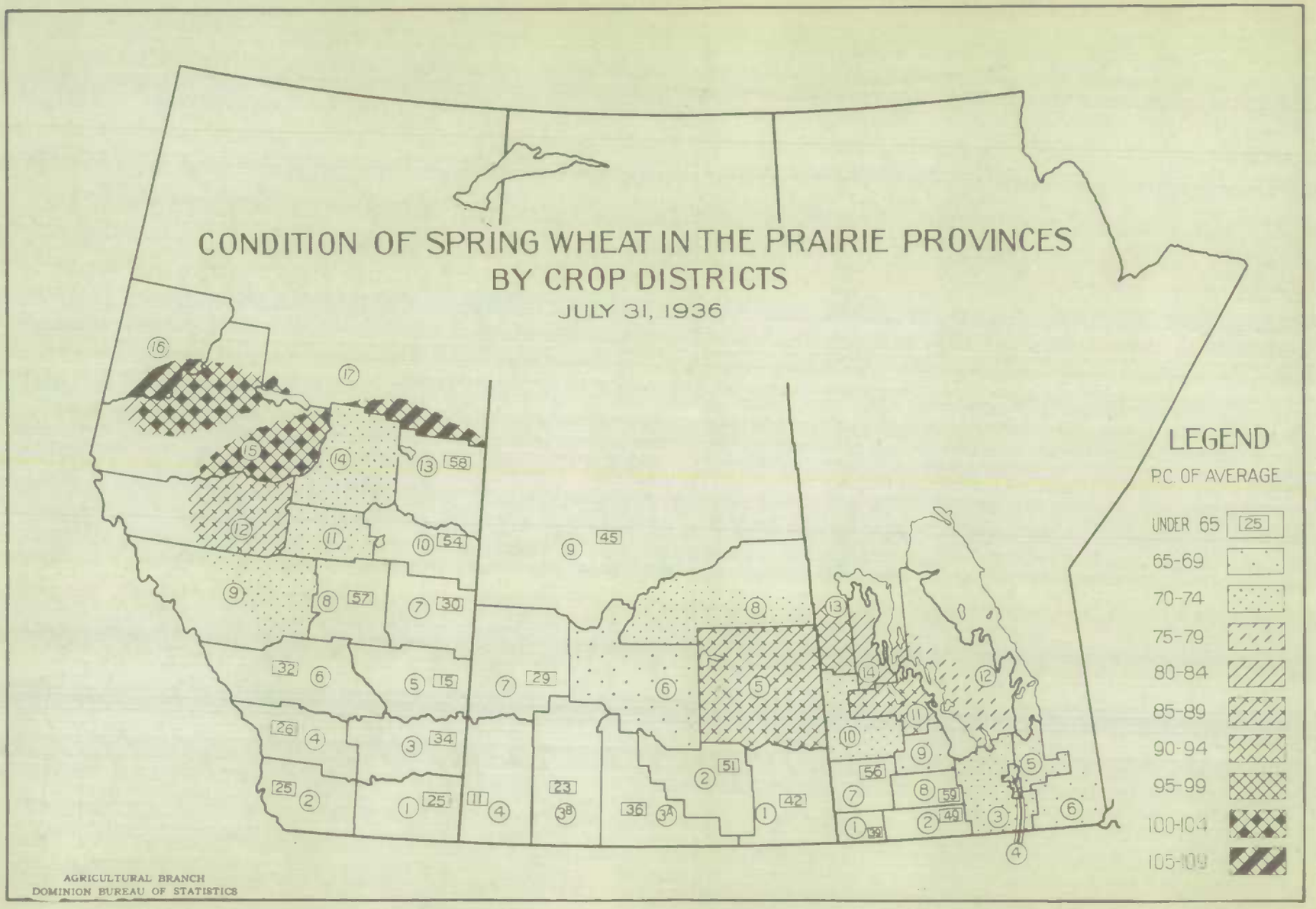
CONDITION OF SPRING WHEAT IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES
BY CROP DISTRICTS
JULY 31, 1936
LEGEND
P.C. OF AVERAGE
UNDER 65
65-69
70-74
75-79
80-84
85-89
90-94
95-99
100-104
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